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## Book Reviews.

BARONS OF THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK.—By Moncure D. Conway.

Mr. Conway has been so fortunate in his choice of subjects for historical and biographical treatment, and so industrious and successful in collecting material (frequently before unknown), that it is an unpleasant task to find fault with him, but for some time past the pleasure and profit we have derived from his writings has been so mingled with uneasiness and lack of confidence—grown more pronounced since an examination of his latest work, published for the Grolier Club—that we think it may now be of service to call attention to some of the causes of this feeling on our part.

It is true that it may be said that the mistakes made by Mr. Conway are in minor matters; but there are many minor matters in "The Barons of the Potomac and Rappahannock," his latest work, and the strictest accuracy is all that can give them any value. We propose, therefore, to notice the instances in which an examination of authorities leads us to believe him to be guilty of carelessness or ignorance; and as the volume is little accessible to the public we shall quote at some length.

"But there were many parishes in which no tobacco could be cultivated, and these were left entirely without ministrations of the Established Church." Page 5.

It is true that in *all* portions of Virginia there was frequent lack of ministers; but an examination of Meade will show that no section was ever so entirely deserted by the Church as is here stated. The General Assembly passed acts "to allow persons not concerned in making tobacco to pay their levies and officers' fees in money,"\* (including especially parish levies), and making the same provisions in the cases of specified counties and parishes.†

"Poor Spotswood lost his place in 1722, retreated to Annapolis, Md., and passed the remaining eighteen years of his life as a prosaic Postmaster-General." Page 24.

The editor of the Virginia Historical Collections, New Series, after a careful study of Spotswood's life, says (*Spotswood Letters*, I, xiii), that "at this place [Germanna] he resided after his retirement" in 1722. And instead of spending all of his life prosaically at Annapolis, he was, in 1724, engaged in what is not generally considered "prosaic" business, for in that year he was in England and was married. Later,

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\* *Hening*, VIII, 168.

† *Ibid*, V, 80.

too, he was certainly not at Annapolis, as it was at Germanna that the visit was made to the Governor, his wife and "Miss Thecky," which has been so pleasantly described by Colonel Byrd.

"I found \* \* that the ancient mansion of the Fauntleroy's \* \* near the site of that superb mansion \* \* stands now a frame house, plebian enough to make the great cavalier, Moore Fauntleroy, turn over in his grave" Page 94.

A close examination in various directions, and especially of the county records, shows that there were never any "superb mansions" in Colonial Virginia. These records give most abundant evidence in the shape of inventories, where the various rooms in a house, in which the property is placed, are designated.

It appears that until about the year 1700, there were but few brick houses built, and that the usual size of the houses of planters, of substantial means, and social and political consequence, was six or seven rooms. The very wealthy men (comparatively speaking) had houses somewhat larger; but it is believed that none of the greatest houses in Virginia, such as Rosewell, Rosegill, Stratford, Westover or Blandfield, had more than from fifteen to seventeen rooms. These houses were exceedingly well built, and, in many instances, portions of the interior fitted up in a costly and handsome manner, furnished, probably, as well as the houses of the country gentry of this period in England; but while they can be truthfully styled fine and suitable, it is mere extravagance to speak of them as "superb mansions." Could Mr. Conway use much stronger terms for Chatsworth or Burleigh?

Not long ago an instance of this style of description was brought to the test of the facts, and the ratio between the tradition and the truth shown. In a memoir of Admiral Ralph Randolph Wormeley, of the British Navy, but of a Virginia family, the authors state that the old residence of the Admiral's family, "Rosegill," Middlesex county, contained, besides other large apartments, thirty bed rooms.\* Now in Middlesex there still remains on record the inventory, dated 1701, of Ralph Wormeley, Esq., President of the Council and Secretary of State, who was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Virginia,† and it shows that the rooms then in the Rosegill house were "the parlor," "the Chamber," "the Chamber over said Chamber," "the Chamber over the Parlor," "the Nursery," "the room over the Ladye's Chamber," "the Ladies Chamber," "the entry," and "Madam Wormeley's Closet,"‡ nine in all, besides kitchen, dairy, &c.

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\* *Recollections of Rear Admiral Ralph Randolph Wormeley*, New York, 1879. This work is, however, not by a Virginian.

† "They [the trustees of William and Mary College] had struggled with the greatest man in the colony, Mr. Secretary Wormeley." Hartwell, Blair and Chelton's *Present State of Virginia*. London, 1699.

‡ Closet, a small room for privacy and retirement.—Johnson.

In the same passage Mr. Conway calls Moore Fauntleroy a "great cavalier." Why so? He was a gentleman of an old and respectable English family;\* but we have seen no evidence as to his politics. If so great a cavalier, why come to Virginia in 1641 instead of remaining, as one would have supposed a "great cavalier" would have done, and drawn sword for the King in the struggle so evidently approaching? Indeed, if we should judge by the preferences of his near kinsmen, who remained in England, we might suppose that he was a Parliamentarian in sympathy, for, from the account of the family,† we learn that the English members of the Fauntleroy were, from the Restoration at least, dissenters.

We frequently hear "Virginia Cavaliers" used in a way indicating an imperfect knowledge of the state of affairs in the Colony. If by the expression is meant that the great majority of Virginians were heartily loyal, it is correct; but the very fact of this great majority is an argument against drawing any deductions as to the social rank of the loyalists. Most of the people were of this party, therefore all grades and conditions of people. But if the talk of "Virginia Cavaliers" indicates an idea that most of the Virginia gentry were descended from men of high rank, who had adhered to the King's side and afterwards emigrated to Virginia, it is assuredly incorrect. Some members of distinguished families, a considerable number of the minor gentry, as well as persons of the lower ranks, after the success of a party which they believed to be composed of rebels and traitors, came to Virginia, finding here a warm welcome, and leaving many descendants.

"One may speculate, had George Washington then married and become master of Fauntleroy House." Page 95.

Speculation is useless in this case, as Miss Betsy had seven half-brothers (Fauntleroy) and two sisters. If the father of the fair lady had died before the Revolution, the bulk of the estate would have gone to the eldest brother; but, in fact, the father did not die until 1793, when in his eightieth year.‡

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\* "The Fauntleroy Family," Wallace's Historical Magazine, July, 1891, p. 1, *et seq.*, derived from family records, wills, Hutchins' History of Dorset, &c.

† *Ibid.* See also *Pepys*, under date November 16, 1660, where he says: "In the Hall [Westminster] I met with Mr. Fontleroy, my old acquaintance whom I have not seen for a long time, and he and I to the Swan, and in the discourse he seems to be wise and say little, though I know things are changed against his mind," (*i. e.*, the Restoration).

‡ "Fauntleroy Family," pp. 6, 15. Col. Wm. Fauntleroy, of "Naylors Hole," [not "Fauntleroy House,"] was born 1713 and died 1793, and his eldest daughter Elizabeth was born June 26th, 1736. In his will he confines his gifts to his sons, gives to three of them land, and to two more and to his daughters personal property. Only the portion of a wealthy planter's daughter, £500 to £2,000, would Washington have gotten.

"Why should not Wakefield [the birthplace of Washington] have been a grand place?" Page 96.

Because money was scarce and building costly.

"Duels about sweethearts were not infrequent" [in Colonial Virginia]. Page 123.

Mr. Conway would furnish an interesting paper if he would publish an account of these duels he has discovered. A number of other persons, who have thought they knew some little about Colonial history, have been struck by the total absence of any notices of duelling; from the affair between Stephens and Harrison, in the time of the company to the Revolution, and have suggested military customs introduced by a long war; and French influence, as the origin of the appeals to "the code," which were so frequent and deadly among Virginians from about 1790 until a time not long since past.

The fact is, that while our records mention a few—very few—challenges, so far as they show or as can be learned from other sources, no duel was fought in the Colonial period about wives or sweethearts, or anyone else.

"When Admiral Vernon was fitting out in England his hostile expedition to South America \* \* The belligerent feeling [in Virginia] was especially aroused by tidings that Harry Beverley and other Virginians had been confined by the Spaniards." Page 25.

News travelled slowly in those days, but it did not, even then, take twenty-three years to come from the West Indies to Virginia. Captain Harry Beverley and the party under his command were captured in 1717 (*Spotswood Letters*, II, 245), and Vernon was beaten before Carthage in 1742.

"In the same year [1736] was established the first of the free schools \* \* the Eaton Free School in Elizabeth City." Page 137.

Benjamin Symmes established a free school in Elizabeth City county in 1634.\* There is evidence in the Elizabeth City records (partially destroyed) of the existence of the Eaton School, referred to, prior to 1689; † Henry Peasley established a free school in Gloucester in 1675; ‡ Governor Nicholson another at Yorktown, 1695; § William Horton in Westmoreland, || and Rev. John Farnfold, ¶ in Northumberland, before 1710, and Samuel Sanford,\*\* in Accomac, 1710.

\* *Hening*, VI, 389.

† Elizabeth City County Records, cited in *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Papers*, July, 1893, p. 64.

‡ *Hening*, VII, 41.

§ York County Records, cited in *William and Mary Quarterly*, July, 1893, p. 17.

|| Perry's Historical Collections of American Church, 292.

¶ "John Farnfold, clerk, by his last will gave one hundred acres for ye use of a Free School." Patent to Farnfold Nutt, Northern Neck Land Book, IV, 31.

\*\* Meade, I, 265.

"Soon after Bacon's Rebellion (1676) a hundred English girls emigrated to Virginia. \* \* One of these married a Fitzhugh." Page 131.

This is an inaccurate reproduction of a tradition given by George Fitzhugh in De Bow's Review. Genealogical traditions are generally false; but however it may be in this case, Fitzhugh states that Henry Fitzhugh married a Miss Cooke, of Gloucester (which is correct), and that there was a tradition that her mother was one of the women sent over to be wives to the Colonists. Further on Mr. Conway quotes George Fitzhugh correctly (as to this matter), which he has forgotten to do here. It is to be desired that Mr. Conway will give his authority for his statement in regard to girls sent here for wives after 1676.

"A gentleman of Fredericksburg writes me 'I have a pedigree of the Carters of Shirley, through the Spotswood tree, going back in a straight line to Adam and Eve—not a missing link.'" Page 134.

Mr. Conway's correspondent can also, after he traces the Spotswood ancestry back to Scotch and English kings, find, in the old chronicles, pedigrees without a missing link, which will enable him to carry the line back to Thor and Woden. To be more exact in regard to this important matter, we have made a careful investigation, and find that Anne Hill Carter, the mother of General R. E. Lee, was forty-first in descent from the chief of the Scandinavian gods. But why should Mr. Conway's correspondent confine the honors of celestial and anteluvian ancestry to the Carters? But one branch of this most respectable and numerous family are descended from the Spotswoods, whose many representatives of other names should surely be allowed to share in the gratification to be derived from such descent.

"In 1849 Mr. Colin Clarke, of Richmond city, was residing in the superb colonial mansion Warner Hall \* \* surpassed all others as a monument of the wealth and culture which transplanted scions of great English houses, to produce a more glorious Gloucestershire than any in England. It had twenty-six rooms \* \* hall \* \* drawing rooms hung with ancestral portraits \* \* It was built by the first of the Lewis family, according to a family tradition, in 1635." Page 144.

This passage appears to have as many errors as lines. First as to Warner Hall; a gentleman, a native and long resident of Gloucester county, who recollects the old Warner Hall house, says he is sure it had no more than sixteen or eighteen rooms. It may have been built by the first of the Lewis family (who by the way is *nominis umbra*, only vouched for by tradition); but it was most certainly not built in 1635. At that date there was hardly a settler within the limits of the present county, and the building of such a house as Warner Hall was an impossibility.

As we have before urged, and as we believe all genealogists having any competent acquaintance with the subject will agree, but few

"scions of great English houses" came to any of the colonies. Gloucester, the county under consideration, has always been distinguished in Virginia as the residence of a large number of families of wealth, education and good birth; but in only a few instances are they descended from "great houses," even of the English gentry. The families of Wyatt, Peyton and Throckmorton are perhaps the only ones derived from English houses of historic note; but they were never, in Virginia, as eminent for large estates and political influence as others in the same county whose English ancestry is of much less distinction. Next, as known descendants of the minor gentry, were the families of Page, Burwell, Lightfoot (the immigrant was son of a barrister and grandson of a rector), and Clayton (from a London family which was of some distinction in the city and in the army and traced to the country gentry). Other leading names of the county, nothing certain in regard to whose English ancestry is known,\* were Kemp (who were probably of the family of baronets of Gissing Hall), Lewis (to whom *one* pedigree in print—others do not—gives a long line of Welsh ancestry), Warner, Smith, Armistead, Gwynne, Robins, Dudley, Taliaferro, Thornton, Tabb, Whiting, Willis, Booth (whose former estate is named Dunham-Massey), Todd, Cooke, Fox and others. These families were, like those of the ruling class in other counties, doubtless derived from

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\* When we say "not known" we do not mean to affirm that the families named have not in each instance full and authentic proofs of their English ancestry, but only that we are acquainted with none such in print or in public records. There are many obstacles in the way of making any general statement. To within a few years but little critical investigation of Virginia genealogy had been made, and Meade contained all that was in print. And even in genealogies which have been published since his time effort has but seldom been made to trace back beyond the immigrant. Thousands have been spent by Northern families in research among the English archives of various classes, where dollars (perhaps cents were the better proportion) have been spent by Virginians. To the Virginia gentleman of ante-bellum days the quality of his ancestry was a fact too well established to himself and his acquaintances for him to think that any investigation was necessary, while later the poverty of the people, which has perhaps turned their attention to the study of family history, and thus caused a more critical spirit as to facts, has likewise prevented them, except in a few instances, from undertaking the costly and laborious researches generally necessary to establish, with full proofs, a line here and in Europe. To the difficulties, too, caused by the destruction of many records, public and private, has been added that caused by the wide dispersion throughout the country of members of the old families, who have divided and carried with them many valuable evidences, such as family Bibles, letters, diaries, portraits, &c. To give an instance of such dispersion it may be mentioned that the material for the genealogy of Gloucester family, with the result of undoubted proof of English descent, was within the last year gathered from this State, West Virginia, Kentucky, New York, Texas, and Somerset House, London.

Within the last few years, however, much valuable work has been done on the right lines, but the foreign ancestry of Virginia families yet remains largely an unexplored and most interesting field for research.

A considerable number of Virginia families (and probably there are more not made public) have always preserved full and indubitable proofs of their English or Scotch ancestry.

ancestors of various ranks and professions—members of the country gentry, merchants and tradesmen and their sons and relatives, and occasionally a minister, a physician, a lawyer or a captain in the merchant service. We have gone over this list of names to endeavor to give some idea of the components of a fair example of the Virginia gentry (by "gentry" we mean, without regard to foreign ancestry, the ruling class politically and socially), and in how small a proportion anything is as yet known as to the ancestry of the immigrant.

"Nor can I discover an instance in which any old mansion or historic edifice in Virginia was destroyed by Northern armies." Page 146.

We have made no investigation of this subject, but recall, as instances, William and Mary College. True it had been burnt in 1859, but the original walls were still standing when rebuilt. The White House—home of Mrs. Washington; Barnesfield, the old residence of the Hooe family on the Potomac, in King George county, and Acquia Church in Stafford. Perhaps it was only the interior of this church that was torn to pieces; but other outrages, as inexcusable, were committed there, for in the *Alexandria Gazette*, a few years ago, a writer, evidently well informed, stated that, after the war, Federal soldiers from New Jersey sent back to the late John Carroll Brent, of Washington, D. C., copper plates, with epitaphs, which had been dug out of the tombs of the Brents at this Church.

"A precisely similar sale of bricks has also overtaken Eltham [in New Kent]." Page 148.

As Eltham was destroyed by fire about 1870, perhaps nothing better could be done with the bricks.

Except as far as all Colonial officials were English officers, there is nothing to show that Colonel Augustine Warner, Sr., of the Council, was an "English officer," as stated on page 150; nor is it correct that the portrait of his son, Augustine Warner, Speaker of the House of Burgesses, is at Rosewell. It has been for several years in the Virginia State Library, where it was temporarily deposited by the owner.

"The first Virginian of the name was General Robert Lewis \* \* \* The building of the mansion, afterwards called Warner Hall, attributed to this General Robert Lewis, who in 1650, received a grant of 33,333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres in Gloucester." Page 151.

We have already spoken of Robert Lewis. His rank as general is exceedingly problematical, and the statement as to the large grant (which has been several times in print, and Mr. Conway only adopts) is absolutely false. As the tomb of Augustine Warner is at Warner Hall, and as John Lewis married his daughter and co-heiress, it seems probable that the house was built by the Warners.

Mr. Conway mentions that a Howell Lewis appears in a list of the gentry of England, in 1673, and appears to think it a striking coincidence that a person of the same name is included in the Virginia



family, apparently unaware of the fact that in Wales each name is almost as numerous as John and Smith in other countries.

"Lucy Armistead, \* \* \* one of the great Darmstadt family. They called their mansion after the country from which they emigrated, 'Hesse,' but changed their name to 'Armistead.'" Page 164.

There is certainly an old and widely-spread tradition among the Armisteads that they were from Hesse Darmstadt, and formerly bore the name of their native country; but if there is any truth at all in this tradition, it relates to a time (as one branch of the family has preserved it) before they were settled in England. The name has been "Armistead" from the first immigration to Virginia of Wm. Armistead, about 1634, and it is, or was, found in several counties in England, while the arms of the Virginia family (as exemplified by a pre-Revolutionary book plate) differ only in small details from a coat given by Burke.

It appears, from a letter by Warner Lewis, printed by Mr. Conway, that the original Armistead estate in Gloucester bore the name "Hesse" as early as 1765. It is frequently difficult to discover, from authoritative sources, how long names of Virginia estates have been borne. From recollection of various records, we would think that those of longest duration are derived from creeks, necks, points, and such other natural features (bearing names either given by the aborigines or the early settlers) and from localities with names by the same, as "Turkey Island," "Richneck," "Blunt Point," "Queen's Creek," "Four Mile Tree," "Weyanoke"; or from some such words, with the name of an early settler prefixed, as "Jordan's Point," "Pope's Creek"; or where the simple possessive of a family name (by which farms are now commonly known) has, in course of time, been abbreviated into a place-name, as "Sheffield," in Chesterfield, long the home of the Ward family, which was, about 1620, the residence of Thomas Sheffield; and "Maycox," in Prince George, deriving its name from an early member of the Council. The class of names which did not originate in common usage, but were deliberately selected and given, appear (though this is not a universal rule, and information is too scant to make positive statements) to have come later. Such were "Ditchley" and "Stratford," "Boxley" (Wyatt, in Gloucester), "Fraundall" (Fauntleroy, in Richmond county), "Isleham" (Peyton, in Gloucester), "Bedford" (Fitzhugh, in King George), "Prestwould" (Skipwith, in Mecklenburg), and "Chelsea" (More, in King William). Such names as "Marlborough," "Blenheim," "Saratoga," and "Waterloo" tell their own history. Before we return from this long digression into which "Hesse" has led us, we wish to inquire if any one can tell why the name "Marmion" was given, certainly a number of years prior to the Revolution, to a seat of the Fitzhughs in King George county?

"Ralph Wormeley, who had lost his lady (Sarah Berkeley), succeeded in his suit for the hand of Miss Bowles \* \* \* became a famous member of the Council and stood by his oath of loyalty at the cost of home and happiness." Page 165.

The Ralph Wormeley, who "lost his lady" (Sarah Berkeley),\* and won the hand of Miss Bowles, was not the one who, as a Tory, was confined to certain limits in Berkeley and Frederick counties by the Convention, and subjected to other troubles, riotous mobs, &c.; but was the father of that person, who was Ralph Wormeley, Junior. Neither did loyalty cost father or son a home, for the former died in Virginia in 1786,† and the latter was a member of the House of Delegates from Middlesex after the Revolution (1787, 1790), and of the Virginia Convention of 1788; and was Ralph Wormeley of "Rosegill," when he died, January 19th, 1806.‡

We will, however, grant Mr. Conway some of the unhappiness, for besides the threatening mobs of patriots in Berkeley, which Mr. Wormeley says endangered his life, the crew of a British privateer landed at "Rosegill" in June, 1781, and robbed the family of the plate, their watches and wearing apparel, and carried off thirty-six fine slaves.§

On page 166 is a letter from Warner Lewis to Lawrence Washington (dated in Virginia 1747), in which the writer says: "Before I sail (w'ch will be in June) if there should be anything in England that I can be of servis to you \* \* \* I should be glad to see you at Bath, being well convinced that nothing would be more beneficial to your health." As Lewis is about going to England it appears most probable that the Bath at which he wished to meet Washington, was not the Berkeley Springs, Virginia (as Mr. Conway supposes), but the famous health resort in England. It is doubtful whether at this early period the former was visited by invalids from Eastern Virginia. The History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley (page 243) speaks of the place as "a locality spoken of as early as 1760 or before."

"In the Revolution there was not one Tory known on the Rappahannock. Its ancient and proud Barons all threw themselves into the cause of independence." Page 174.

To this it may be answered that among Rappahannock people were Ralph Wormeley, Jr., already noticed, his brother James, who went to England at the beginning of the war;|| another brother John, who served as an officer in the English army in the South, and who, when he was allowed to return to Virginia in 1783, was disfranchised for four

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\* She died December 2d, 1741. *Southern Literary Messenger*, VIII, 323.

† *Recollections of Admiral Ralph Randolph Wormeley*, page 11.

‡ *Meade I*, 371.

§ See petition of Ralph Wormeley, Jr., in *Virginia Council Journal*, January 13th, 1777, and his letter to Mann Page, in *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, I, 300-301.

|| *Recollections of Admiral Wormeley*.

years.\* There were also Robert Beverley, of "Blandfield," Essex, who is stated † to have refused to serve on the county committee, to have been disarmed and been constantly "inimical to the Whigs"; Austin Brockenbrough, ‡ of Essex, who was compelled to leave Virginia in 1775, and did not return until the peace; John Tayloe Corbin, § who was confined to the limits of his father's estate in Caroline; John Randolph Grymes || (son of Philip Grymes, of "Brandon," Middlesex), whose accession so delighted Dunmore, and who served as a major in Simcoe's Queens Rangers; Benjamin and Philip Grymes, ¶ both voted enemies by the Spotsylvania Committee in 1776 (and the latter imprisoned in the interior), and William Montague, \*\* of Lancaster, denounced by the people of his county and the State Council as hostile. More might be named, but these are enough. It is very true that a great majority of the old Colonial families stood firmly for the cause of independence; but among them, on each of the rivers, was more than one Tory.

"To hang up Blackbeard's head would be in accordance with the custom of the times. The Rev. Frank Stringfellow, an Episcopal clergyman of Virginia, tells me of a remarkable series of names recording the similar fate of some negro offender. In travelling from the Appomattox, Chesterfield county, we pass 'Skinquarter Creek,' where the criminal was hung and flayed, his skin being displayed." Page 185.

Mr. Conway then continues and states that Negro Arm road in Powhatan, Negro Foot post-office in Hanover and Negro Head Run in Orange, show where other portions of the body were put up *in terrorem*. It is safe to assert that this is wholly untrue, and that no such barbarous punishment ever took place in Virginia. No similar instance is preserved in histories or records. Under the Virginia, as under the English law, ears might be cut off, but we find no provision for feet. The "quarter" in Skinquarter doubtless meant, not a portion of an offender's carcass, but, like hundreds of other "quarters," a plantation where hands were worked, but the owner did not reside.

On page 222, speaking of the Fairfax ownership of the Northern Neck, Mr. Conway says: "Here was a tremendous and continuous training in hatred of aristocracy. The accident of birth had thrown into the hand of one Englishman six million acres in a county he never saw and made fiefs of a thousand estates tilled by Virginians."

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\* *Recollections of Admiral Wormeley. Sabines American Loyalists II. Hening, XI, 316.*

† *Calendar of Virginia State Papers, IV, 338-340.*

‡ *Meade, II, 474-477.*

§ *Journal of the Convention, May, 1776.*

|| *Sabines American Loyalists.*

¶ *Ibid.*

\*\* *Meade, II, 43, and Council Journal.*

The proprietors of the Northern Neck never had any authority in civil or military or religious affairs, as did some others (the Baltimores for instance). The counties north of the Rappahannock were as much under the general government of the colony as those south of it. They sent their representatives to the same House of Burgesses, and their whole system of county and parish government was conducted in the same manner, and all civil and military officers were appointed by the same authority as in the other parts of Virginia. The only difference was that the quit rents were paid to Lord Fairfax's agent instead of to the King's receiver general, and it was doubtless a matter of indifference to them to whom it went. There appears no evidence of any hatred, as Mr. Conway suggests, against the family of the proprietor, Fairfax. Indeed, his "Barons" appear to have been on most friendly terms with them, marrying and giving in marriage, while it may be taken as a fair test of the feeling of the lower classes, that the last proprietor, Lord Fairfax, known to be in sympathy with England, lived in Virginia during all the war without there remaining an instance of even an insult offered him.

"William Lightfoot [1746] descended from John Lightfoot, a Jamestown colonist, was soon after a member of the Council." Page 241.

He was neither a descendant from a John Lytefoot, a Jamestown colonist, nor was he ever in the Council, but was the grandson of Philip Lightfoot (immigrant), whose epitaph at Sandy Point ("Teddington"), on James river, states that he was son of a Grays Inn barrister, and grandson of a Northamptonshire rector.

"I will copy here a curious legend of the Fauntleroy's from a private letter written by a great-granddaughter of Washington's 'Lowland Beauty.' 'About the years 1690 a young French Prince, heir to the throne, formed a morganatic marriage with a young French gentlewoman named Lady Eliza Bellefield, of good family; but not of the blood Royal.'" [She then states that about 1700 the Prince of Saxe-Meiningen, in Germany, had made a morganatic marriage with one Elizabeth Schuman, who had petitioned the Emperor Charles for the title of princess, and the civil lawyers were considering the matter, but before they reached a decision] "Lady Bellefield had died of chagrin, and her three sons were banished from France. They came to Virginia about 1706, bringing with them their princely title, *Enfant-le-Roi*, and coat of arms, three infant heads crowned with *fleurs de-lis*. Miss Betsy [the 'Lowland Beauty'] was named for and was the granddaughter of Lady Eliza Bellefield." Page 241.

Of course, Mr. Conway does not credit this very "curious legend"; but it is surprising that such should have been thought worthy of a place in his book. The tradition he quotes would not be worthy of notice were it not as an example of the extreme of absurdity to which genealogical tradition, even when the facts have been known, may

grow. The heir to the French throne in 1690 was the Dauphin Louis; and while French royal and princely immorality at that day would have disdained such a miserable pretense as the German morganatic marriage, any union approaching it in publicity would have been made notorious by the memoirs of the time. We can, of course, find no trace of Lady Eliza (rather English for a French gentlewoman) Bellefield; but there has long been a well-known family of Belfield in Richmond county (where the Fauntleroy's lived), whose immigrant ancestor, as their own published records show, was Joseph Belfield, an Englishman. It is also absolutely certain that the first of the Fauntleroy's, Moore, was (as has been shown before) an Englishman, who came about 1640; and to him, as the certificate still preserved shows, was granted in 1633 by the Heralds College a confirmation of his arms—the three infants' heads—stated in the certificate by Sir John Borough, Garter, to have been "borne by his ancestors time out of mind."\* And instead of Betsy being a daughter of an illegitimate scion of French, or any other royalty, she is shown, by indubitable records, to have been the daughter of Colonel William Fauntleroy, of Richmond county, and his wife, Apphia Bushrod, of Northumberland—both honestly born natives of Virginia.

And now, in conclusion, to call Mr. Conway's attention to one more error. If he will examine any Fairfax pedigree he will find that Mr. Bladen, of the Board of Trade (page 180), was not an uncle of Colonel William Fairfax, of Virginia, but (his mother was one of the Fairfaxes of Stenton) was only a distant kinsman.

This article has grown to such entirely unexpected length that there is no space for any further remarks on Mr. Conway's work, nor did we desire to do more than to call attention to his statements and to what appears to us to be the facts. We believe a comparison of these will enable all interested to form a judgment.

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\*See copy of the certificate in "The Fauntleroy Family," Wallace's Historical Monthly, July, 1891, where will also be found full proofs of the ancestry of "Betsy Fauntleroy."